

NOTES ICHTYOLOGIQUES

FIRST RECORD OF THE RARE SNAKE-EEL *LAMNOSTOMA KAMPENI* (TELEOSTEI: ANGUILLIFORMES, OPHICHTHIDAE) FROM A RIVER IN NORTHEASTERN NEW CALEDONIA. Bernard SÉRET, Antenne ORSTOM, and Guido DINGERKUS, Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle, Laboratoire d'Ichtyologie générale et appliquée, 43 rue Cuvier, 75231 Paris cedex 05, FRANCE.

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During a recent survey of the freshwater fishes of New Caledonia (program PEDCAL), two specimens of *Lamnostoma kampeni* (Weber & de Beaufort, 1916) were caught in the Rivière Ondou, a tributary of the Rivière Tiwaka, in northeastern New Caledonia. It is the first record of this species for New Caledonia.

The two specimens, 249.0 and 424.5 mm TL (=SL), are deposited in the collection of the Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle, Paris (MNHN 1992-128). The capture data are as follows: station PEDCAL N°44; 25 Sept. 1991; Rivière Ondou where crossed by a dirt road between Rt. 3 and Koné, approximately 10 km from Rt. 3; altitude 30 m; water temperature 24.6°C; pH 5.5; conductivity 115 µS; width 5 m; depth about 1 m; electrofished.

Nichols (1955), Tortonese (1964), Allen (1991), and Parenti and Allen (1991) recorded this species from New Guinea under the genus name *Achirophichthys*. However, McCosker (1977) resurrected the genus *Lamnostoma* for four species generally found in freshwater and distinguished by slender jaws and white spotted pores on the lateral line and on the head, namely: *L. orientalis* (McClelland, 1845), *L. mindora* (Jordan & Richardson, 1908), *L. taylori* (Herre, 1923), and *L. kampeni*.

L. kampeni was only recorded from four freshwater localities in New Guinea: near the mouth of the Mbai River in Humboldt Bay, the type locality, by Weber and de Beaufort (1916); in a cave near Maneau village by Nichols (1955) and

LaMonte (1961); at Andai (Tortonese, 1964), and in small tributaries of the Gogol River by Allen (1991) and Parenti and Allen (1991). It was also recorded from Pinacanauan River, Luzon Island, Philippines by Herre (1924). However the latter record, from comparisons of published descriptions, appears to be another species in the genus, probably *L. mindora* which was described from freshwater on Mindoro Island, Philippines.

The New Caledonian specimens were caught along with the following fish assemblage: *Anguilla* sp. (Anguillidae), *Gymnothorax* sp. (Muraenidae), *Ambassis* sp. (Ambassidae), *Kuhlia rupestris* (Kuhliidae), *Eleotris* sp. and *Ophieleotris* sp. (Eleotridae), *Awaous* sp., *Glossogobius* sp. and *Stenogobius* sp. (Gobiidae). These other specimens are currently under study, and exact species identifications will be published at a later date.

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